

System Configuration Team (SCT)

Reasonable & Prudent Measure #26 Meeting Notes June 27, 2002

1. Greetings and Introductions.

The June 27 meeting of the System Configuration Team was held at the National Marine Fisheries Service offices in Portland, Oregon. The meeting was chaired by Bill Hevlin of NMFS and facilitated by Richard Forester. The agenda and a list of attendees for the meeting are attached as Enclosures A and B. Hevlin led a round of introductions and a review of the agenda; he distributed the notes from the May SCT meeting, and asked that any comments be furnished to him prior to the SCT's July meeting.

The following is a distillation (not a verbatim transcript) of items discussed at the meeting, together with actions taken on those items. Please note that some enclosures referenced may be too lengthy to routinely include with the meeting notes; copies of all enclosures referred to in the minutes are available upon request from Kathy Ceballos of NMFS at 503/230-5420.

2. Update on FY-02 CRFM Funding.

John Kranda updated the group on the status of FY-02 CRFM funding. We are supposed to be receiving an increment of \$1.8 million soon, he said, a down-payment on the last \$6.4 million we're supposed to receive in FY-02. With the coming award of the corner collector contract and the recent award of the channel dewatering contract at The Dalles, that money is needed, Kranda said. There are some items that are looking more and more risky, from a funding availability standpoint, he said. Near-field testing of the flow deflectors at Bonneville, for example. We're still hopeful that additional funds will be made available this year, Kranda said; there is another meeting scheduled for early July to discuss the funding situation.

Kranda said the main risk, as he sees it, is that the \$3 million+ in contractor earnings associated with three line-items: the corner collector, the Lower Monumental deflectors, and The Dalles channel dewatering, could carry over into FY-03, if additional funds are not made available. It is also possible that, if additional funds are not forthcoming, we might have to stop work on some items, which will delay the completion of those projects one year, Kranda said.

3. Discussion of FY-03 CRFM Program.

Hevlin distributed Enclosure C, a handout containing the most recent version of the SCT's criteria and guidelines for prioritization of the FY-02 CRFM program, as well as lists of the various line-items that fit under each of the high-priority criteria B BiOp year 3 category check-in items needed to meet check-in requirements, construction items underway from FY-01, juvenile studies and passage improvements for Bonneville, The Dalles or Lower Monumental, key system and project evaluations to answer uncertainties for future implementation decisions, significant adult passage facility and high-risk reliability issues.

The group devoted a few minutes of discussion to Enclosure C, as well as the most recent version of the FY-03 CRFM measures worksheet (Enc. D). Hevlin observed that the current total cost of all of the high- (H) and medium (M)-priority FY-03 line-items is between \$110 million and \$113 million; it looks as though we'll have \$98 million available for the program next year, he said, so we're going to have to reduce the list of fundable projects by \$12 million-\$15 million. It would probably be a good idea to pare the list even further B down to about the \$80 million level B just in case, Kranda added.

After a few minutes of discussion, it was agreed to schedule an all-day SCT meeting to focus on relative priorities for the FY-03 CRFM program, and to identify the top \$80 million and \$98 million in FY-03 projects. That meeting was set for Wednesday, July 31 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

4. New Adult and Juvenile PIT-Tag Installation Sites for 03.

Kim Fodrea led this presentation, beginning by saying that she had been overly-optimistic at the last SCT meeting; she said the Corps will only be able to design the adult PIT-tag detection system for Ice Harbor this year, due to financial constraints. Ron Boyce said the Adult PIT-Tag Oversight Committee has determined that Lower Granite is the next priority for this program. Hevlin said that, as far as he knows, there is no funding allocated for adult PIT detection at Lower Granite next year.

5. Lower Monumental Barge Loading Facility Problems and Potential Improvements.

6. The Dalles Spillway Survival Improvement Options.

7. Discussion of the Use of CRFM Funding As Seed Money to Kick-Start the Corps Flood Control Study.

8. Next SCT Meeting Date.

The next meeting of the System Configuration Team was set for Wednesday, July 31. Meeting summary prepared by Jeff Kuechle, BPA contractor.